

# Hydropower Projects Relicensing

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The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission administers a program of licensing nonfederal hydroelectric power plants. FERC licenses establish conditions on the owners' operation of their plants; typical conditions include instream flow requirements and other fishery protection measures. Licenses for many California hydropower plants will be coming up for renewal soon. The relicensing process affords resource agencies and individuals the opportunity to seek changes in instream flow requirements, such as those suggested in Central Valley Project Improvement Act's draft Anadromous Fish Restoration Program. Hydropower generation is a nonconsumptive water use, but changes in the amount and timing of water diverted for power generation can affect other uses downstream. The impact of deregulation of the electric power industry on relicensing decisions is uncertain. Current owners of some generating facilities, especially smaller plants, may sell their generation assets in response to deregulation.

Water supply impacts of relicensing are difficult to quantify, in part because impacts are site-specific. Some plants subject to relicensing, for example, currently have no bypass flow requirements. It is likely that relicensing would establish bypass flows at these sites. Other plants subject to relicensing already have substantial bypass flows, and it is not clear what changes relicensing would bring.

**CA. Hydropower Projects -License Years 2000 - 2010 (projects over 1,000 kW)**

License Expiration Date	Project	Stream	Licensee	Capacity (1,000 kW)
June 2000	Lower Tule	Middle Fork Tule River	Southern California Edison	2.0
September 2000	Hat Creek No. 1 & 2	Hat Creek & Pit River	Pacific Gas & Electric	20.0
February 2002	El Dorado	South Fork American River	PG&E	20.0
April 2003	San Geronio No. 1 & 2	San Geronio Creek	SCE	2.3
August 2003	Vermillion Valley	Mono Creek	SCE	N/A
September 2003	Poe	North Fork Feather River	PG&E	142.8
October 2003	Pit	Pit River	PG&E	317.0
April 2004	Santa Felicia Reservoir	Piru Creek Santa Clara River	United Water Conservation District	1.4
October 2004	Upper North Fork Feather River	North Fork Feather River	PG&E	342.0
December 2004	Donnells & Beardsley	Middle Fork Stanislaus River	Oakdale & South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts	64.0
December 2004	Tulloch	Stanislaus River	OID and SSJID	17.1
December 2004	Stanislaus-Spring Gap	South Fork Stanislaus River	PG&E	175.8
February 2005	Borel	Kern River	SCE	9.2

March 2005	Portal	Rancheria Creek Big Creek	SCE	10.0
April 2005	Kern Canyon	Kern River	PG&E	11.5
February 2006	Klamath	Klamath River	Pacificorp	231.0
January 2007	Feather River	Feather River	DWR	844.0
March 2007	Kilarc & Cow Creek	Old Cow Creek & Cow Creek	PG&E	8.9
July 2007	Upper American River	South Fork American River	SMUD	722.3
July 2007	Chili Bar	South Fork American River	PG&E	7.0
November 2007	Mammoth Pool	San Joaquin River	SCE	181.0
February 2009	Big Creek No. 2A & 8	South Fork San Joaquin River	SCE	480.1
February 2009	Big Creek 3	San Joaquin River	SCE	177.5
February 2009	Big Creek No. 1 & 2	Big Creek & San Joaquin River	SCE	225.9
March 2009	South Fork	Kelly Ridge Canal	Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District	104.1
April 2009	Santa Ana No. 3	Santa Ana River	SCE	1.5

